

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add Claim 13.

1. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather having a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min characterized in that it has an Fe content of 1 to 6% by weight, based on dry weight, determined after ashing.
2. (Original) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the penetration time according to DIN 53338 is at least 2 hours.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that it has an Si content of at least 0.2% by weight, based on dry weight, determined as silicate after ashing.
5. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the leather contains a silicone.
6. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the water vapour permeability, measured according to DIN 53333, is greater than 0.8 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>h.
- 7-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of chromium-free leather leathers according to Claim 1, comprising treating ~~an~~ iron-tanned leather having (i) a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min and (ii) an Fe content of 1 to 6% by weight, based

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on dry weight, determined after ashing is optionally retanned and is then  
treated with a silicone water repellent, which is a silicone.

11. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1340, wherein  
the leather that is treated is a pelt and the process further comprises  
subjecting the pelt to an acidic pretreatment before the pelt is treated with the  
silicone water repellent, characterized in that a pelt to be tanned is subjected,  
prior to iron tanning, to an acidic pretreatment.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (New) The process of Claim 10, wherein the process further comprises  
retanning the leather before treating the leather with the silicone water  
repellent.